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SEPTEMBER 21, 1998

Kallis promotes tree by-law



Laurie Kallis, disguised as the Lorax, goes out on a limb to save trees. She risked life and limb to try to save the gigantic Silver Maple pictured here. The tree, 245 inches in circumference, is on the chopping block. If you care about this baby, like these tree-huggers, call your local councillor and tell him/her you want Mississauga to adopt a tree by-law, by George.

photo/Tim Tham

UTM student fights for preservation of local trees

BY ROBERT PRICE

When developers targeted more of Port Credit's ancient trees to be felled, Laurie Kallis wasn't going to take it sitting down.

As a matter of fact, she wasn't even on the ground.

Last Friday, Kallis, a fourth-year Art and Art History student, donned the garb of Dr. Seuss' character, the Lorax, and perched herself in a 150-year-old tree to raise awareness of a bylaw being prepared by City Hall. If enacted, the bylaw would make the felling of ancient trees illegal. Currently, Mississauga has no bylaw that protects historic trees, unlike its neighbours, Toronto and Oakville, which do have tree protection bylaws.

Kallis wore the costume to protest the clear cutting of a lot that is home to four large trees.

One of the trees is a silver maple, approximately 245 inches in circumference, that grows in the backyard of the Wilcox Inn, one of Mississauga's heritage houses. The City's "historic" designation of the Wilcox Inn protects it from any aesthetic and structural modifications; the trees, despite their age or size, do not have the same luxury.

Legend Homes, a development firm, plans to replace the trees with five townhomes.

"I am the Lorax, I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees at the top of my lungs," Kallis sang to neighbours and reporters crowded at the foot of the tree during her Friday

protest. "Call on your councillors, call on your mayor, ask them to make sure we treat the trees fair. If this tree's chopped down, our virtue falls too; there's no one to stop it, except me and you," she called.

The crowd supported Kallis' warnings, holding hands in a ring around the tree. "I think it is about time Mississauga passed a bylaw," said Bernard Wenzel, a Port Credit local.

"Port Credit is being chopped piece by piece. We won't recognize this place in five years," he said.

Earlier this summer, Kallis and her husband, Ed Troscianczuk, fought diligently to save a gigantic maple tree on their own lot, which new landlords eventually felled to make way for a group of townhouses.

Troscianczuk hopes that their protest will make a difference. "It is difficult to stop a developer once they have a permit. If the city has a strong will and a vision of how it wants Mississauga to look, we can't stop this from happening in other places," said Troscianczuk. "It is a shame. This is quite a remarkable tree," he added.

At Saturday's Tree Festival, many of Mississauga's environmental groups, including the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Friends of the Cawthra Bush and the Credit Valley Horticultural Society, helped promote Kallis' cause and rally support for the bylaw.

The road was closed during the afternoon to allow for the tree-huggers' music, comedy, crafts and children's activities

Party houses gone

BY MICHAEL SCHMIDT

The Hastie and Robinson houses, used for years as student residences, were demolished this summer to make way for a new phase of student housing. With their destruction, an era that many described as "one long party" ended. While first-year students will never know the two storied homes, many students and staff members, as well as alumni, share many spectacular memories.

The University of Toronto purchased the two houses located between phases one and two in the early 1960s after construction of the college began. At the time, they were two of only a few places on campus to house students, and until two years ago, the houses were occupied only by female students. According to Residence Director, Mike Lavelle, Erindale did not have dons during residences' early years. Instead, a senior female student lived with a group of females and acted as a supervisor. Only six females lived in Robinson House, named after former dean, Peter Robinson. Dean Robinson used the house as his office until the North Building was completed.

The houses were once briefly the focus of political debate when in the early 1980s Jean Chrétien visited for a don breakfast. He said there should be a "French" house on campus, where residents would speak only French. The college tried it for a few years, but quit the practice when it became difficult to find willing students.

By far, the more famous of the houses has always been Hastie House, named for its original owner. Since it had a finished recreation room, Hastie became an unofficial student centre for the burgeoning campus, and through the years it garnered a reputation as Erindale's best party house. Lavelle remembers an end-of-year party that took place in the early 1980s at both houses and across the field in between that consisted of over 100 people. Concerned about the large number of guests, Lavelle went over to talk to then-ECSU president Frank McGrath.

"They were dancing. [The

Houses continued on page 2

Blind pigs: Erindale a real sty

BY ROBERT PRICE

Visitors strolling through UTM might easily confuse Erindale's "Blind Duck" mascot with a "Blind Pig."

Last year, the UTM Library was the anvil of student abuse. Students congregated and ate in the library as though it were a student lounge. The litter and noise pollution became so bad that the school enacted the Library Code of Conduct, which denied access to offenders for up to one full year.

This year, it appears that yet again, Erindalians are unconcerned about the campus' appearance. Students are not cleaning up after eating in the Meeting Place, Spigel Hall or the Greenery. The swarms of litterbugs have many people itching.

"Where is their pride?" asked Gayle Richter of Conference Services. "Garbage cans are available. Pick up after yourselves," Richter told students. "This is your school, take pride in it," she said.

"The South Building is pathetic," agreed one anonymous English major. "There is too much noise and too much junk," she added while disposing the wrappers of her lunch into the trash.

One repentant student, whom *The Medium* caught not cleaning up after himself, said, "Actually, I'm embarrassed. I guess I didn't see a garbage can located conveniently. I should have put my stuff in the garbage; there is no excuse not to."

"You've convinced me to pick up my garbage," he said.



"Oink," said the little piggy. "I love garbage!"

As you can see in the above picture, UTM can't seem to figure out how to use trash cans. Perhaps the Task Force on Year One should have recommended a remedial course in sanitation engineering.

photo/Sijie Xu

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Quote of the Week: "It was there for three months," —Student Mark Quigley remembers fond times at Hastie House, page 2.

Houses were centres of fun for students Residence sponsors lectures

Continued from front

house] was shaking. I was afraid the first floor would end up in the basement," recalled Lavelle. When he told McGrath that there were too many people in the house, McGrath coolly replied, "Mike, it's under control."

Such historic parties have been held throughout Erindale's existence, until

the end of the last school year. In 1996, Hastie was modified to accommodate a blind, male student who could not use any of the other residence units. Hastie House then became a male residence in its last two years of existence. One of its final occupants, Mark Quigley, described life in Hastie as constantly fun, because of such sports as wrestling

and indoor golf.

Hastie's final keg party took place last year, and Quigley estimates that it was attended by approximately 300 students. Although police officers set up a Ride Program on Mississauga Road, there was little trouble. The largest problem that officers faced was dealing with intoxicated guests urinating on

trees behind the house.

Quigley also fondly remembers one resident defecated in a downstairs toilet that wasn't working properly. "It was there for three months," he said.

On another occasion, an inebriated friend showed up late at night and tried

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By MICHAEL SCHMIDT

The UTM residence dons have begun presenting a series of seminars this month to help students deal with issues concerning not only university life, but life in general. The "Life Series" began on September 9 with a seminar called "Maturity and the Tools for Living." Running until next March, the seminars will be held on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the Colman House lounge. The discussions are being presented by a number of professional speakers. Posters advertising dates are posted in Colman House.

Head Don, Lindsey Telfer, is helping to organize the Life Series. She believes that the seminars are extremely important to students. When asked about student life now, Telfer said, "It's always been hard; there are always issues. Freshmen are feeling an abundance of stress."

The seminars will include such topics as stress management, preparation for interviews, and even the effects of family origin. While there will be a seminar devoted to discussing alcohol and drug abuse, Residence Director, Mike Lavelle, believes that the topics dealing with budgeting and financial planning are the most important. "It's crucial to students these days," he said. The University will also provide copies of a student-written book about student life.

Erindale's Registrar, Mark Overton, will discuss student budgets and OSAP loan management with Hugh Clark, Erindale's Awards Officer. Dick O'Brien and Dr. Scot McFadden, two speakers who regularly enlighten residence students in the areas of personal health and career planning, will return to Erindale throughout the year to continue speaking to students.

Marilyn Bellghem, a therapist who runs a consulting business in Oakville, will present a seminar called "Responsible Sexuality." In a phone interview, Bellghem said that her seminar will touch upon "sexual behaviour and being responsible." She will also discuss self-esteem and how sex can contribute to a long-term relationship. Since Bellghem prefers to open her seminar to student questions to see where interests lie, rather than lecture, she will discuss sexual assault and harassment only if people express interest in those subjects.

"[The seminars are] more focussed on self-development, stress management, and financial development," said Telfer. "I think every person needs to be educated in these areas, but [sexual assault and harassment] is not what the Life Series focuses on," explained Telfer. During frosh week, postcards that satirized date rape were pulled from frosh kits before they were distributed to students, although condoms were provided. Telfer suggested that people interested in learning about these topics consult Peel's health nurses.

While in the past, the residence dons have always had seminars about life issues, this is the first time they have been organized in this fashion. According to Lavelle, there has always been a difficulty getting students to attend. "Last year we tried to force students to come. This year we'll rely on the dons to bring people," said Lavelle.

The next seminar takes place Wednesday, September 30 at 5 p.m. in the Colman House lounge. It is entitled "Budget Planning & Management of OSAP problems." Residence students are encouraged to bring non-residence friends.

Subsequent seminars include:

Educational continued on page 3

Task Force on Year One releases report

BY ROBERT PRICE

The Principal's Task Force on Year One released its final report this summer. The group, commissioned to search out ways to improve the first-year experience, researched extensively and consulted many faculty members, students and staff since its inception in 1996. The report's recommendations, if implemented, could drastically change first-year studies at UTM.

Some of the more notable recommendations are:

—“A system of six division-wide introductory half-year courses should be created at UTM and required of all students.”

—“All incoming UTM students should be given clear evaluation of their literacy skills based on diagnostic assessment prior to the start of classes. Where necessary, students should be strongly advised to seek remediation.”

—“All incoming first-year and transfer students should be required to take the SAT for diagnostic purposes once they have been admitted to the College.”

—“All 100-series courses at UTM should be offered as half-year courses.”

—“Non-credit remedial literacy courses should be offered by the Academic Skills Centre, on a fee basis, beginning in October.”

—“A committee should be struck to enquire into the possibilities and implications of requiring some form of admissions test for UTM.”

—“A non-credit pre-calculus course be developed for students requiring remedial work prior to enrolling in a regular calculus course; a fee would be charged for this

course.”

—“All students wishing to enroll in a calculus course should write a diagnostic assessment. A strong, but non-compulsory recommendation as to appropriate course selection should be conveyed to students based on the assessment results.”

—“The College should encourage and facilitate development of automated testing procedures to assist students in identifying and rectifying their skill deficiencies.”

—“Faculty should be encouraged to increase their availability to students by expanding their office hours, by holding office hours on more days of the week and by making more extensive use of electronic communications such as e-mail.”

—“A full-scale mandatory system of

faculty advisors should be established at UTM, whereby all faculty would serve as advisors for first-year students. Creation of such a system might necessitate an offsetting reduction in faculty workload.”

—“Organizations promoting credit cards should be prohibited from using College facilities.”

—“Every first-year student should be required to attend a seminar on appropriate and inappropriate behaviour at university.”

—“Create an Academic Centre for First-Year Students.”

—“Departments should make a concerted effort to ensure that teaching assistants (TAs) are fully familiar with course content.”

—“The College should develop an eval-

uation process for TAs; all TAs at UTM should be regularly evaluated for their teaching skills and effectiveness.”

—“All first-year lectures should be scheduled between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.”

—“A panel of experienced faculty should be available for consultation by instructors seeking advice and ideas to improve their teaching.”

—“Symbols emphasizing the nature and import of the University should be integrated into UTM's buildings.”

Next week:

An analysis of literacy at UTM

Educational Seminars

Continued from page 2

“Alcohol & Drug Abuse,” to be held on October 14; “Responsible Sexuality,” on November 4; “Stress Management,” on November 18; “Family of Origin and How it Affects You,” on January 13; “Personal Resiliency,” on January 20; “Career Opportunities,” on February 3; “Personal Success is an Inside Job,” on February 24; “How to Prepare and Take an Interview,” on March 10; “Guidelines for Career Security & Personal Confidence,” on March 24.

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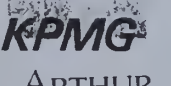

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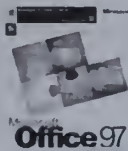
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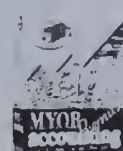
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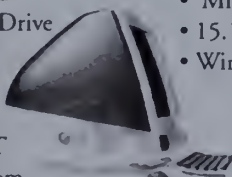
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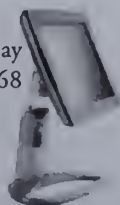
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Interrupting chocolate pudding

Honest opinions from Scavetta

BY ROBERT PRICE

"St. George sees Erindale as a separate part of U of T. They see us as a vestibule rather than the main lobby," said Rick Scavetta, a SAC Erindale Director, while commenting on UTM's reputation with St. George students, between spoonfuls of chocolate pudding. "But Erindale has a great atmosphere. At times our spirit is not good, but the comradery at Erindale is great—we are our own little community." *The Medium* caught up with the fashionable director to discuss Erindale politics as he was on his way to class.

We asked Scavetta if he felt student organizations should have a specific political orientation.

Last year, the non-partisan SAC was criticized by *The Varsity's* left-wing staff for lacking any direction. "If [an organization] is politically motivated and it sticks to one narrow pathway, people will be alienated—some by knowing the agenda; others by not knowing what it is about," he

replied. And ECSU, should it become more political? ECSU, Scavetta said, needs to motivate students. "There was the impression last year that they weren't doing anything. They must be more visible this year in organizing the student body," he commented.

Scavetta believes a "scism" exists between residence and off-campus students. He would like to see it closed. "[We need] more

events targeted at bringing residence and off-campus students together, especially for frosh. I

think that would be great," said Scavetta.

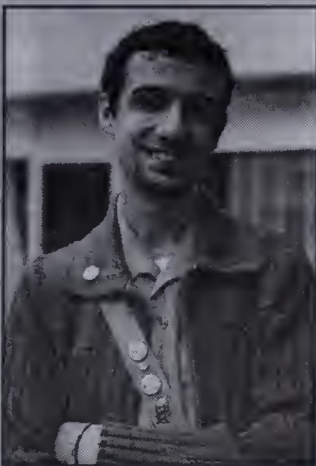
"I get nothing from Radio Erindale. A small percentage of students get anything, other than bands that [the station] sponsors," Scavetta replied to questions regarding Erindale's cable radio station. "I don't know how to access cable radio," he added.

"Some of the articles are great toward Erindale, but there is stuff that is more important. Sometimes I wonder, 'why did they print this?'"—Rick Scavetta, commenting on *The Medium*.

Regarding the years of talk about CFRE going "on air", Scavetta asked, "Can they even get an FM station?"

The SAC director saw ECSU as a possible solution to Radio Erindale's fix. "If ECSU boosts Radio Erindale, brings it to life, it would be a great promoter for them."

And what does Scavetta think of *The Medium*? "I haven't read it a lot this year, but I always read it last year. I think it's pretty good." He went on, "Some of the articles are great toward Erindale, but there is stuff that is more important. Sometimes I wonder, 'why did they print this?'" Scavetta suggested a way to improve *The Medium*: "Get more



SAC Director, Rick Scavetta.

file photo

students involved to write a larger array of articles." He added that he would write articles for the paper this year. We're going to hold you to this, Rick.

And Rick, just out of curiosity. What's your take on the Clinton scandal? "I really don't want to know what he does in bed; millions of others have affairs...He is human and male and what more can you expect?"

Non stop party house

Continued from page 2

to enter the house by climbing up onto Hastie's greenhouse. The unlucky visitor didn't quite make it, instead falling through the roof. Fortunately, he was unhurt and later managed to knock on Quigley's bedroom window.

Many people are sad to see the destruction of the two houses. For so long, Hastie and Robinson have been focal points of fun at Erindale. Despite all the revelry, Lavelle was never too worried about the house. "It was always well looked after and it wasn't expensive to keep," he said. Regarding

last year's keg party, he quipped, "I knew the house was coming down anyway."

The demolition of Hastie and Robinson clears the way for a new phase of residence to hold 192 students. Four of the units will be two-person apartments for residence dons, while the remaining forty-six will each hold four people.

When asked to sum up the long history of Hastie and Robinson, Lavelle reflected for a moment and then replied: "The focus of a lot of fun. Great party houses."



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Building brick by brick



photos/Sijie Xu

Under a beating sun, Mississauga and UTM's brass (left) came out to celebrate the Student Centre's very successful fundraising campaign. There were toasts all around, especially for Erindale's favourite benefactor, Ignat Kaneff (pictured immediately left). UTM's student leaders, ECSU's President, Mike Giordano, and PTS@UTM's President, Sharon Hammond, also showed thanks by presenting the Centre's benefactors with memorial plaques. The festivities culminated with the building of a miniature house, big enough for even the tallest leprechaun. For a different take on the events, read the Editorial.



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A celebration of nothing

E last Friday's post-groundbreaking Student Centre "celebration" was an example of style over substance. The school had the style—a big white tent, catered food, beer, wine, and all the important people—but the event was devoid of any news value. Despite attendance by some of U of T's and Mississauga's important players, nothing significant happened, which prompted us to relegate the event to a photo box on page five. One must realize, however, that nothing significant was *supposed* to happen.

In advance of the event, some ads declared it a celebration, when in reality there was little to celebrate. We will celebrate the Student Centre when it opens, and the fundraising campaign when it is over. Neither project is near completion.

The celebration wasn't a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony—the school broke ground unceremoniously months ago. As well, the celebration wasn't intended to announce that the fundraising campaign reached its goal—the school remains a long way off.

What it really was

Actually, the celebration was nothing more than a reason to gather Erindale's elite in one place for the cameras, reporters, and Mississauga's political and economic players, to ensure that the business community hasn't forgotten about the campaign. Cameras flashed from *The Mississauga News*, the *Mississauga Business Times*, *The Medium*, and other newspapers.

The University held the event to put a fresh spin on the floundering campaign in front of a progressive backdrop (the initial construction of the Centre). Essentially, they wanted free advertising from newspapers, in the hope that images of influential businessmen and politicians will attract new donors, or perhaps prompt reluctant companies to contribute.

News? At last!

Principal McNutt announced one piece of news: an anonymous benefactor (Iggy Kaneff said he or she is a professor) donated \$100,000 to the project on Thursday. We commend the anonymous professor, but it's sad when one of your own has to toss money into the old hat.

We hope the free advertising from Friday's gathering freshens the campaign's image and attracts the outstanding dollars, because UTM can't turn back now.

A side note: Despite the celebration's prominent location at the crossroads, and the availability of alcohol under the tent, few students (other than those directly involved) showed up. Administrators outnumbered students by a wide margin, even though administrators will not be housed in the building. Perhaps this is more evidence that the Student Centre is more important to administrators than to the students who will eventually use it.

This little piggy is lazy

Must we see rats gnawing away at leftovers in the Meeting Place before students start picking up their own garbage? The Meeting Place looked like a dump last week, and *The Medium* even caught a guy leaving trash on a table.

We all know that Erindale's janitors do this dirty work, but they need some respect. If you don't like picking up after yourself, do you honestly think the janitors do? It seems the strict enforcement of no-eating and no-drinking rules in the library pushed all the repeat offenders out into the Meeting Place. To all the litter bugs out there, we ask one question: what exactly do you think the garbage cans are for? Decoration? Respect your campus and toss your garbage where it belongs.

The Medium is published weekly by Medium II Publications, a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. **The Medium's** mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism. National advertising provided exclusively by Campus Network.

Richie has so many girls coming to see him each day. Is he a pimp? (explains why he had her money and ID with him!) This is the 4th issue without any money. That cheque better arrive promptly on Sept. 30. Nat's back from Vancouver! Nat's back!!! She's already done more pages than Zuhair I think! There's a new movie out called Pecker (see ad page 11)—is it about what I think it's about? Oh Hub, where are you?

EDITORIAL



Erin Finley

Letter to the Editor

There is more to teaching than classroom lecture

Re: "Public Opinion" editorial, *The Medium*, Sept. 14th issue.

Dear Editor,

I should first declare my personal bias on this subject. I have relatives who are or have been teachers, and this has no doubt helped shape my opinion on the current situation in Ontario. Having said that, I believe that I also have managed to become reasonably well-informed on the matter.

I read the editorial about the dispute between teachers and the provincial government, and I found many of the comments to be misleading or lacking in explanation.

I don't see how the public opinion "war" between the current government and the teachers has much to do with the personal versus the public lives of a president and a baseball player. I am not sure how exactly teachers have "gotten personal" in a way that could be compared to the Clinton or McGwire situations, but it was certainly not through sex scandals or drug use. Perhaps the conflict has become personal now that it is no longer between strictly the government and teachers (not that it ever really was), but also involves students and their parents.

Unfortunately, the editorial does not inform the reader of the amount of work teachers do when not in the classroom, nor does it mention the consequences of having all teachers give up their "spare" periods.

The prep. period is rarely used as a long coffee break by most teachers. On the contrary, many teachers use this valuable work time to accomplish many "extra" tasks. There is more to teaching than classroom lecture. If a student needs to discuss a matter with the teacher, it often happens during the prep. period. In order to plan field trips, a teacher must make all of the arrangements during regular business hours, which means during the school day. Lessons can be planned at home after school; however, home is usually where most marking is done, taking up hours of unpaid time, as do extracurricular activities.

Most importantly, if a teacher must now use the prep. period to teach a fourth class, this means taking on the responsibility of 25-30 more students,

all of whom require individual attention and guidance. This is perhaps the most damaging aspect of "more time in the classroom": less individual attention, simply because there is no time for it.

Everyone has had bad teachers, including the present teachers. But I believe that "the public" has also experienced and appreciated good teaching.

If nothing else, perhaps the teachers have recently "gotten personal" by showing how necessary they are in providing Ontario students with a worthwhile education.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Law
3rd year student

Behaviour towards disabled must change

BY TANYA P. INGLETON

I've been disabled for about eight years, so I know what it's like to experience life within two different realms. In general, people don't realize who their real friends are until they encounter adversity.

I'm not trying to sound like a dramatist pleading for sympathy, but it's ridiculous the way some members of society behave around those who have a physical handicap. The only difference between individuals with and without disabilities, is that for the former, accomplishments may require more time and patience.

Often, instead of politely asking somebody with a handicap about their problem, or offering assistance, people

tend to ignore, or just rudely stare at the disabled. The underlying issue behind this behaviour towards the disabled is ignorance. Unfortunately, this state of mind derives from the notion that non-disabled people are better than the physically or mentally challenged. Of course, all people are equal and capable of achieving anything they desire.

Another response to the disabled that

I find absurd is to treat the disabled like children. It can be rather stifling when people are overly benevolent, as though they are dealing with

Instead of people always judging a book by its cover, they should try reading what's inside.

kids. People can be too helpful. We need to act and think for ourselves in case nobody is around to help us.

Lastly, another reason why some people can't accept disabled individuals for who they are is that society emphasizes a person's exterior values. Instead of people always judging a book by its cover, they should try reading what's inside. In addition, rather than only being concerned about one's disability, people should acknowledge a person's abilities. Again, being disabled for eight years, I hope that eventually, the perception of the disabled will not be this negative.

Letters Policy



Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 500 words in print. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not

be published. Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor-in-chief, other editors and staff, or *The Medium's* Board of Directors. In other words, just because we print it doesn't necessarily mean we agree with it. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read, and agrees with, this Policy. Please submit letters on disk.

OPINION

Right to life must rest with patient

Palliative care solves mercy killing problem

The national debate over euthanasia will never die. Just over a year ago, Halifax respirologist Nancy Morrison reignited the mercy killing debate when police charged her with first degree murder in the death of terminally ill patient, Paul Mills.

Allegedly, Morrison gave Mills large doses of two drugs, nitroglycerine and potassium chloride, which are known to hasten death. A judge dismissed the murder charge earlier this year; however, Morrison could still face prosecution.

Over the years, various mercy killing cases have caught the public's attention, prompting Canadians to urge Ottawa to be humane and compassionate. Some highly publicized cases include Saskatchewan farmer Robert Latimer's mercy killing of his severely disabled 12 year-old daughter Tracy, in 1993. The following year, Sue Rodriguez of B.C., who suffered from a degenerative nerve disorder, died after she took substances provided by an unknown doctor.

Mercy killings can take two forms: euthanasia

or physician-assisted suicide. As in Morrison's case, euthanasia entails the administration of substances by a physician in hopes of hastening death. On the other hand, as in Rodriguez's case, physician-assisted suicide occurs when a doctor only provides lethal drugs for a patient to use.

In Canada, the law and the Canadian Medical Association allow terminally ill patients to be taken off life support with their own, or a family member's consent. To ensure a comfortable death, medical staff administer opiates and sedatives to the patient. Even though extremely high doses of opiates and sedatives can induce death, the physician is free to administer an unlimited dosage to the patient. The physician must make just one consideration: the medication or drug must work primarily to alleviate pain.

Essentially, Canada does not allow physicians to play God. And it never should. Revisions to the outdated Criminal Code are needed. Under the Code, a compassionate killing by a physician is considered equal to the heinous acts committed by Paul Bernardo. The severity of the Code's punishment for compassionate killing must be reduced, but mercy killings should never be endorsed. Mercy killings are unethical and

unscrupulous acts that infringe on the rights of others. No one person has the right to take the life of another human being. If an individual chooses to take her life, that is her prerogative. However,

suggesting that the health care system offer mercy killing as an option is unacceptable. Physicians heal the injured and cure the sick—they should never be given the option to kill.

An alternative is available. Palliative care attempts to relieve pain and make dying patients more comfortable. Although Canada is a world leader in this practice, palliative care is not

available in many rural areas. Many physicians suggest that calls for euthanasia and assisted suicide would lessen if access to palliative care was increased.

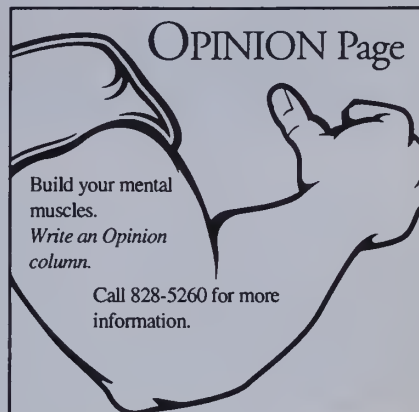
In light of the Morrison case, the federal government should add provisions for mercy killings to the Criminal Code, and increase funding and accessibility for palliative care. As well, Ottawa should rebuff mercy killing advocates, sending a clear message to Canadians that euthanasia and assisted suicide are unethical and criminal acts.

HEALTH MATTERS



By ZEESHAN WASEEM

Physicians heal the injured and cure the sick—they should never be given the option to kill.



MEDIUM

Election Notice

Four student positions are open on Medium II Publications Board of Directors.

Any full-time student (or part-time student who joins the corporation) may run for these positions. Students **must** be registered with Erindale College to be eligible.

The Board of Directors deals with finances, legalities, and complaints not resolved at the Editorial level.

The election will take place Friday October 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The nomination period began Monday September 14, and ends Friday September 25 at 5 p.m.

Pick up nomination forms at our office, room C111 in the North Building.



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Ride the Rocket.



THE BETTER WAY



By Natasha Wong

An integral part of school life at Erindale, clubs have always offered a breath of fresh air to over-stressed and over-committed students. With dances, games, speakers, and information nights, they cushion the academic shock of post-summer laziness.

This week, Erindale's clubs will grace the maroon tiled floors of the Meeting Place, displaying their wares to the interested. Traditionally, clubs provided students with an opportunity to socialize with people with similar beliefs and ideas.

Some even offer their members special discounts and free bonuses. Whatever political group you belong to and whatever cultural background you have, joining a club is one of the first steps you should make to kick start another amazing year at Erindale.



**Commerce
Association for
Students of
Erindale**

CASE's goal is to get students to network with the business community. Membership costs \$10 and comes with free laser printing at UTM computer centre printers, binder, pen, and T-shirt, all while quantities last. Planned events include the KPMG "Kick Start" BBQ (September 25) and a Case/UTM

Athletics Golf Classic.

More information about CASE can be found on its website at www.erin.utoronto.ca/student_org/case, and students can contact the club through e-mail at eccase@mail.erin.utoronto.ca. The office is located in the Kaneff Building, room 207.



**Erindale Drama
Club**

The Erindale Drama Club gives UTM students opportunities to work in the theatre

environment, whether it be on or backstage. Membership is open to everyone at Erindale and no theatre background is needed. The club runs workshops discussing various theatre aspects, a variety "showcase" event on January 9, and participates in the Hart House Drama Festival, for which it has won numerous awards.

Join the club during Clubs Week, or at the Opening Meeting on September

20, 5p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall (room 107, North Building). Your \$2 membership (\$5 after September) will give you free pizza at the meeting.

You can reach the club by calling the Erindale Studio Theatre at (905) 569-4369, or by calling Terry Costa (president) at (905) 607-3030. You can also e-mail at tcosta@writeme.com.



**Erindale
Environmental
Association**
The EEA
offers Erindale

students the opportunity to promote environmental awareness around the school. EEA's philosophy is "think global, act local."

Club activities include the Credit Valley Conservation Fall Colours Tour (Oct. 4), a Bruce Peninsula National Park Camping Trip (Oct. 16-18), and a cottage/ski trip (Jan. 15-17).

The first meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 30, at 5 p.m., and membership is \$5. For more information, visit the EEA booth during

clubs week, or e-mail at eea@discovermail.com.



**Erindale Young
Liberals**

EYL strives to create political involvement across the University of Toronto. The club

has operated for decades and it plans to host a number of activities this year.

During Clubs Week, students can sign a petition addressed to the Ontario Government to protest rising tuition fees. As always, the Young Liberals will participate in Model Parliament in late January. They are also currently booking guest speakers. Lastly, in conjunction with the Liberal youth organization of Mississauga West, the EYL will participate in a Christmas toy drive, the funds from which will go to a non-profit organization.

All students can join the club for an annual fee of \$3 during Clubs Week or at any of the monthly meetings, the first of which is on Friday, October 2 at 12 p.m. Questions or concerns can be brought to the EYL through its mailbox in the ECSU office or by e-mail at utmgrits@hotmail.com.

Lifeline Christian Fellowship

The Lifeline Christian Fellowship has three goals: to help students learn more about Jesus; to help others enjoy university with new friends; and to help students find their purpose in life.

It costs only a loonie to join this club, and with it comes great special events. On Thursday, October 15, some Argo players will share their testimonials. Admission to this seminar in the Meeting Place is free and all are invited. Ten-dollar tickets are also being sold to the big game with Montreal on October 17. The outing begins with an Argos tailgate party at 11 a.m. and will be followed by the game at 1 p.m. Also, there will be a fall retreat from October 2-4, with the theme of "The You in U." For \$15, students will hear popular speaker Barry Bonney and a McMaster band called "Sons of Thunder."

The first meeting will be Thursday, October 1, 12-1 p.m. in the new Clubs Lounge (room 165, North Building). You can contact Lifeline through Carol Ann (president) at (905) 212-9470, or Randy (chaplain) at (905) 875-3060.



**Psychology Club
P.A.U.S.E.**

When I first saw the word "P.A.U.S.E." advertised around the school, it got me thinking. So I headed down the South Building towards the bookstore, past Spigel Hall, turned the corner, and "paused" at the pump room (1099) to talk to the representative.

"This is the Psychology Association of Undergraduate Students at Erindale, and we have a wicked year planned for you. But first sit down and relax. If you ever need anything, especially past psychology tests, just come by. Actually, you can meet everyone at our "Wine and Cheese" event on September 28, 3-6 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge. As for events, there will be the City Line trip, Couples Therapy speakers, the OPP trip, and our Second Annual Variety night. During Clubs Week, membership costs \$5, after that, it's \$6."

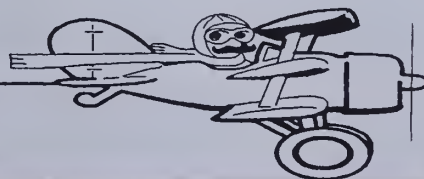
As I left the pump room, I realized something—that rep didn't pause for a second!

Clubs Week

Sept. 21-25

Drop by the Meeting Place
and check out the fun

The ARC is available at ECSU!



*The
Blind
Duck
Pub*

**Thursday Pub Nights
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Part of the University Experience
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Reform Party of Canada Supporters

The Reform Club aims to encourage students to get involved with the Reform Party of Canada. The club will host guest speakers at Hart House on Sept. 26. Plans are to bring Rahim Jaffer, the MP from Edmonton Strathcona, to speak at Erindale in November. Preston Manning has also expressed interest in visiting the university.

The first meeting will be held during the second week of October and membership will be free during September, after which it will cost \$3. For further information, call Alex at (416) 875-4847.



UTM Pre-Law Society

1998 marks the commencement of the UTM Pre-Law Society. It is a student committed to providing resources, guidance, and support to those interested in learning more about the study and practice of law. This club will prove useful to such students by inviting to UTM speakers from various law schools, KAPLAN, Princeton Review, and LSAT, as well as lawyers and current law students. There will also be a trip to Provincial Court. In addition, there will be a variety of social events, such as a two-day ski trip and a semi-formal. The first meeting will be held on October 1, from 5-7p.m., in the Fireplace Lounge (room 2068B, South Building). Membership is open to all students at a cost of \$5. Students can e-mail the club with questions or concerns at expls@mail.erin.utoronto.ca.

Erindale Arab Student Association

This club was founded in 1993, mainly to educate all Erindalians about Arabic culture and heritage and to abolish negative stereotypes in a warm, welcoming social atmosphere.

The first event will be a Halloween Dance at the Blind Duck Pub, on Friday, October 30. Events in past years include: dances, Culture Week and Arabic Week, speakers, ski trips, workshops about Canadian Arab youth affairs, and a marathon walk to raise funds for the children of the Middle East along with other university Arab Student Associations.

To get more information, contact Leila at (905) 607-4070, or via e-mail at e0fkj6@mail.erin.utoronto.ca.



Erindale Chinese Students' Association

Founded five years ago, ECSA has since been one of the most active clubs on the Erindale Campus. Seeking to provide members with a fun school year apart from academics, past activities have ranged from debate contests and trips during Reading Week to the States for "Big Two" tournaments and Christmas dances.

This year, ECSA has planned a wide range of activities to entertain Erindale students. These special events include orientation, a soccer tournament, outdoor trips, a walk-a-thon, a bowling competition and a Christmas dance. For \$10, membership offers a sponsorship programme. Over 100 organizations and companies from all over the Greater Toronto Area, Mississauga, and Richmond Hill offer student discounts with savings ranging from ten to 30 percent.

The first meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15, but students can reach the club by e-mail at ecesa@mail.erin.utoronto.ca, or by calling Carmen Chan at (416) 271-8928, or Alan Choy at (416) 420-4806, or Caroline Tam at (416) 713-8964. Membership is open to all students of U of T.



Erindale Latin American Student Association

ELASA has three primary objectives: 1) it aims to expose and share the many aspects of Latin American culture in a fun and festive way; 2) to educate and unite the U of T Latin American community; and 3) to promote and inspire younger Hispanic high school students to enter into university level studies.

Membership is only \$5 and provides students with discounts for all events. As part of CHISPA, the Canadian Hispanic Student Society, which is a union of most of the major Hispanic student groups of several universities, students receive the opportunity to escape the everyday humdrum of their educational lives. Last year ELASA had over 120 members, offering them dance lessons and off-campus dances. In fact, members can learn to Salsa, Merengue, and Cumbia starting the first week of October (in the Dance/Aerobic studio). In the same month, there will be an ELASA "night out," and a dance with York University. ELASA will hold its Fifth Annual Spring Latin American Cultural Expo in March, and has organized many other events, which include movie nights, guest speakers, and visits to local high schools to promote studies for Hispanic youths.

ELASA membership is open to all UTM students. Last year only 11 percent of the members were of Latin American descent, which reveals that members will not feel excluded and that Hispanic youths should definitely be encouraged to go to university.



Scores line up to check out Clubs Week's wicked offers.

file photo



Italian Club of Erindale

ICE offers students the opportunity to meet new people and experience Italian culture. This year, a Boat Cruise is

The first meeting will be held within the first week of October. For more information, look to posters to be put up around campus. Students can also reach this five-year-old club through e-mail at ecpolish@mail.erin.utoronto.ca.



Polish Club

The primary objective of the Polish Club is to enlighten students on Polish culture. In fact, membership is open to all students, from UTM and other colleges. The \$5 fee will also include special discounts and member privileges. With 40 members last year, the club experienced its greatest success, with a year-end party held at the Palais Royale, which involved three other universities. This year, the Polish Club offers movie nights, dances, ski trips, and many cultural and sporting events.



Society of Hindu Students

Also known as the Hindu Student Council, the HSC promotes awareness of Hinduism to both Hindus and non-Hindus. A \$5 membership fee gives students access to the welcoming social, which will be held on Wednesday, September 30, in the Clubs Lounge, probably from 3-5p.m. Other planned events include Diwali in October, a panel discussion, an Indian Heritage week, movie nights, and other socials. Students can reach HSC through Deena (President) at (416) 440-5789, or e-mail at e0fq17si@mail.erin.utoronto.ca.



Vietnamese Erindale Students Association

The four-year-old VESA's aim is to promote Vietnamese culture. In past years, VESA has organized many dances, picnics, Food Bank visits, sporting events, karaoke nights, and camping trips. Together with associated VSAs, an annual culture show, "VAN NGHE," has been planned.

Membership is open to all Erindale students and alumni for \$5. This includes discounts and/or free admission to club events, as well as tutoring and access to old tests and exams.

Upcoming events include the General Meeting on October 2, (4p.m., Clubs Lounge) and the Halloween dance. Students can also reach the club through its website at: www.erin.utoronto.ca/student_org/vesa/index.htm, or e-mail at ecvesa@mail.erin.utoronto.ca, or by phone at (416) 315-3606.

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NHL '96

Power Chess

\$9⁹⁹

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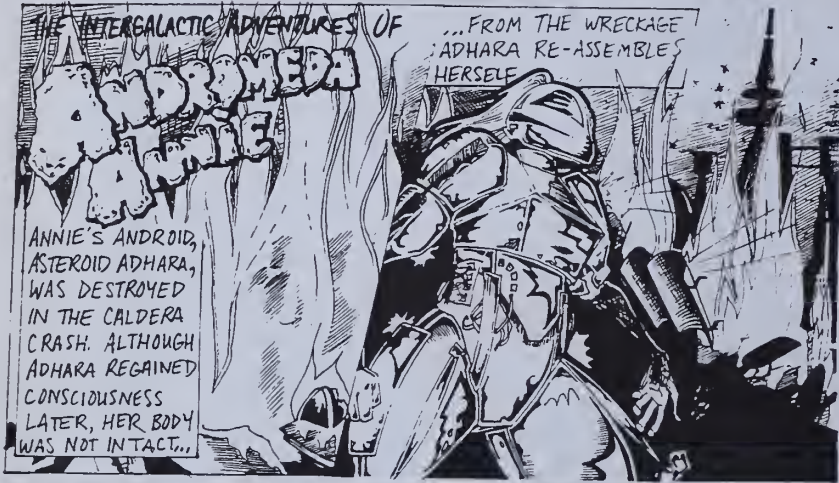
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c/silver@qnet.net



WHAT DO YOU MEAN I "LOOK" GUILTY?

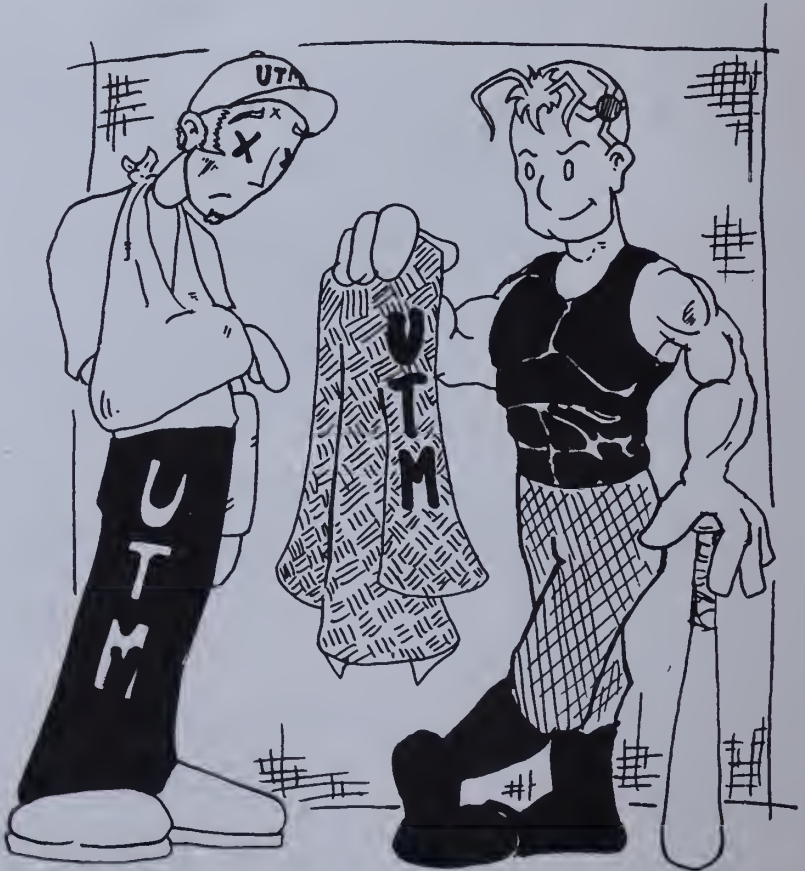


KIDS CAN BE SO CRUEL. THEY USED TO MAKE SO MUCH FUN OF RONNIE, JUST BECAUSE HE WAS DIFFERENT. FOUR-EYED FREAK. EVERYONE KNOWS KIDS WITH GLASSES SUCK!

SKWELED VIEWS: SKWELED VIEWS

UTM Fashions!

We asked Rudy to display this year's new UTM fashions, including the stylish baseball cap and the trendy new UTM leather jacket. Of course, if you've looked below, you know you aren't seeing the leather jacket in all its glory. We didn't realize that Rudy owed \$500.00 to Spider, a loan shark, who felt that beating Rudy and confiscating the jacket was a good start to his pay-back. We apologize now for our inability to show you these wonderful items, and hope Rudy's family found a donor with the same blood type. Best wishes, Rudy. To the student body, however, you'll have to trust us about how cool this new gear is...really...



The Moral: You probably shouldn't borrow money from a guy named Spider, and you probably shouldn't model UTM fashions, although which is worse is hard to say...

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

English student finds peace in poetry

Grace Subrata - English major

She began taking the path of a science student. She took her calculus, physics, biology, and algebra, yet always had a passionate side of her that needed an outlet.

ARTT/ATAACK

BY RICHIE MEHTA

Like so many other students her age, she needed to be heard, and to find a voice with which to speak. And she found it—through poetry. Although many will argue it's a dead art, a romantic's search for fulfillment in a world devoid of it, Grace's work

reveals a life force and vitality that can only be expressed through writing. In a collection of original work entitled *raged and caged: silent roars of a circus animal*, Grace proves that even though professors can be malicious, school work can be overwhelming, and domestic pressures can drive one to depression, the arts offer a way to voice one's own opinion in the midst of many.

How does she feel about her poetry? "I cannot simplify myself in one sentence and therefore will not offer a quote for this column."

The following is an excerpt from *raged and caged: silent roars of a circus animal*.

Twentieth Century Box

Open up
Your twentieth century box
Play with
Your twentieth century box
Show your friends
Your twentieth century box
Throw away
Your twentieth century box



One thousand nine hundred Wars not lost, not won, just done
Ten Evil deeds that damn all believers to hell and are you a believer?
One thousand nine hundred and ten Lives destroyed by you, me, everyone
Nine Cloned sheep and still going like a pink rabbit in a marching band
One thousand nine hundred and twenty Organisms slaughtered for fur, food, man's greed
Eight Mass murderers cannibalizing with only the best steak sauce like filet mignon
One thousand nine hundred and thirty E. coli feasting on every inch of flesh in your body

Seven Trees falling in the forest and nobody there to hear
One thousand nine hundred and forty Ozone particles lost forever

Six Terra that four-legged majority disturbed by the two-legged minority
One thousand nine hundred and fifty Hypocrites preaching down the throats of atheists
Five Eggs in test tubes: alpha, beta, gamma, delta, glad I'm not an epsilon

One thousand nine hundred and sixty Years of this wasted life
Four Equal citizens?
One thousand nine hundred and seventy Atoms fusing and fissioning
Three Religions always at war, never at peace

One thousand nine hundred and eighty 2-faced humans
Two 0-hearted humans
One thousand nine hundred and ninety 0-minded humans
One 0-failure-rate nuclear weapon and one way to prove it

WELCOME TO THE YEAR 2000

As unpredictable as fire

Medeski, Martin, & Wood
Combustication
(Blue Note/Capitol Records Inc.)

Traditional, yet contemporary, the mystical John Medeski, Billy Martin, and Chris Wood trio offer a strong album that eludes limitations of time and trend.

musical arrangement lets the mind wander but it ultimately controls its destination. "Latin Shuffle," while nine minutes long, maintains momentum to the very end.

Instrumentation is unpredictable, spare, and heavily textured, with a full range of tempos. Just when a formula seems discernable, the band tosses special guest DJ Logic into the mix.

Unlike other tracks, "Whatever Happened to Gus" features spoken lyrics, by guest Steve Cannon. As such, the music enters the spotlight, devoid of competition. In general, *Combustication* is sensual, with slow, moody tracks that dominate the album's tone.

CD/REVIEW

BY GIOVANNI SENISI

Their jazz-band music succeeds in taking the listener's mind on a journey. The

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Unconventional music succeeds where mainstream fails

CD/REVIEWS

John Hiatt

The Best of John Hiatt
(Capitol Records, Inc.)

Although he may not be well known by name, his music is some of the most recognized. John Hiatt's songs have been covered by the likes of Bonnie Raitt (*Thing Called Love*), Jeff Healey (*Angel Eyes*), and Suzy Bogguss (*Drive South*). The quality of his song writing abilities has been making others famous for years and keeping his original versions as yet-to-be-discovered treasures.

Upon first hearing Hiatt's 1987 version of *Thing Called Love*, Raitt's inspiration becomes obvious. Dense, rousing, and intensely complicated, it is clear why Hiatt has been relatively distant from mass music market consumption. The music eludes simple categorization. He is a genuine craftsman, casually working with other musicians of the highest caliber such as blues guitarist Ry Cooder. The world's best drummers must be confounded after hearing Jim Kelter's rhythms, which even Hiatt calls "mystery beats."



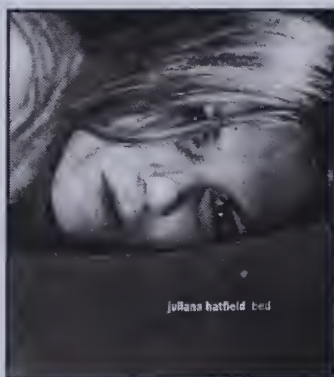
At various moments such as his duet with Rosanne Cash (*The Way We Make A Broken Heart*), the music is clearly country influenced, but this does not limit him. A wide range of Southern U.S. sounds are employed throughout the material covered on *The Best of John Hiatt*. However, a sense of authenticity pervades with no superficial "borrowings" to be found. Mostly ranging from 1987 to 1995, the 17 tracks provide a comprehensive representation of Hiatt's career and vision.

Because of its sheer density, the majority of the compilation is fairly difficult to appreciate without a hardcore love for music, first-hand musical experience, or an understanding of musical roots. This is truly an example of what is called "music for musicians."

- Giovanni Senisi

Juliana Hatfield

Bed
(Zoe Records/Polygram)



On *Bed*, Juliana Hatfield attempts to strip down to her bare essentials by writing and recording the entire album in one week. Elaborating on her self-imposed restrictions, she states, "Not having the option to second-guess everything gave the recordings a special energy. There's a freedom in a lack of choices which forced me to get to the essence of the songs more easily."

Accordingly, there is an edgy, unusually direct feel to the album that adds a unique element of sincerity to the lyrics. In songs like "Running Out," a desperate plea for support in difficult times, the message rings loud and clear. Other moments where her methodology works are "I Want To Want You" and "Live It Up," in which she communicates the raw energy and power of her recording sessions.

Confident and concise as the album sounds at first, it begins to fall apart in places. On second spin, "You Are The Camera" quickly turns from biting social commentary to one-dimensional and uninteresting, the obvious drawback to her marathon recording session.

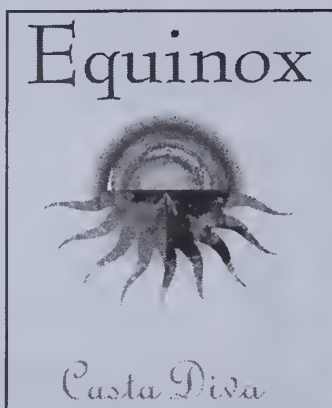
Instrumentally, the entire disc is tight and powerful, its alleged "spareness" giving it a youthful and exciting garage-band feel, but unfortunately the lyrics occasionally prove too weak for their accompaniment.

- Giovanni Senisi

Equinox

Casta Diva
(Level Music)

If you've had enough of life, or loud, incoherent music, then Equinox' new CD, *Casta Diva*, is for you. The ladies manage to reach a level of tranquility that few artists have ever managed (although the Spice Girls come close in "Viva Forever"). Most of the tracks are not in English, but that's beside the point. The soothing tone of the music and vocals makes one ignore the content of the lyrics, and focus more on the overall effect. It's hard to categorize this type of music, but it has traces of Erasure and Scripture, mellow and spiritual, with a rhythmic beat.



Highlights include the title track, "Vissi D'arte," "Dome Epais Le Jasmin," "O Mio Babbino Caro," and "Barcarolle." All of tracks have a similar feeling, with background synthesizer, and a faint female humming. When listening to the music, one enters what seems like another level of consciousness: relaxed, and extremely content. Feelings of wonder, excitement, and curiosity arise about life, and its beauty.

The inner cover of the CD has a quotation: "When the golden sun crosses over the plane of the Earth's equator making night and day of equal length we are spiritually awakened and at peace within ourselves and each other." Truly, one can feel the spirituality of Equinox' music, and few will be able to resist its soothing effects.

- Richie Mehta

Label Profile
Poptronik

Recently formed Toronto label Poptronik has started its catalogue with some admirable releases in the form of Title's *Moonfly* and Radiate's *Alien Invasion*. However, the label itself deserves note, if only for concept. The premise of Poptronik (according to their website) is the creation of an entire multimedia project. The label houses a film house, music studio, graphic design facility, advertising service, and an editing department. They could, essentially, make an entire film. (all in house).

Both bands, Title and Radiate, are Canadian, and both are obviously influenced by pop music, including 80s synth-pop (a cover of Depeche Mode's "Just Can't Get Enough" proves this), and dance music (with Radiate sounding like they were fed Underworld's rhythms through the Chris Sheppard-filter, with mixed results on a couple of tracks). The sound, however, is very promising if one considers that both bands are relatively new (although Title's members have paid their dues on the indie gigging circuit).



The Bluetones
Return To The Last Chance Saloon
(A&M/EMI)

Brit pop has returned, and almost no one will ever hear it. The Bluetones have captured the sound that Sloan aimed for on their Navy Blues album. Imagine mixing the best parts of Our Lady Peace (there are some) with the best of British pop. Add expert lyrics, very good song-writing and hooks that just won't quit. In the end, you have The Bluetones.

Since their first release, *Expecting To Fly*, The Bluetones have evolved their sound by adding depth and flair to their instrumentation. The final product sounds like the next step for Brit pop; pop with a British flair which can hold its own against all other pop forms, while eating Canadian pop alive in the process.

Some highlights of the top-notch album include the infectious "4-Day Weekend," which has all the ear markings of a 102.1 single, yet none of the airplay. "Tone Breeze" features the typical Bluetones formula; catchy hooks, great lyrics and wonderful melody. Each track wraps itself up in lush sounds and works in every way as a great pop song.



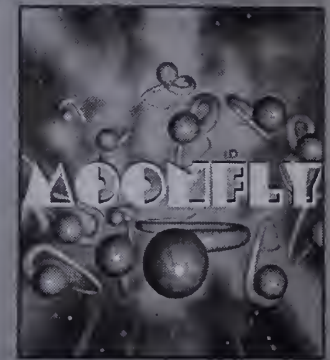
Truly one of the more underrated talents of our time, The Bluetones really do have to be heard to be appreciated. No amount of description can do justice to what may well be one of this year's best hidden gems.

- Scott Arnold

Radiate, however, is the weaker of the two, with mixed sounds resembling typical dance, crossed with a slightly poppier sensibility. Although the band is not bad, their sound lacks originality. The first single, "Dry High," has the best results, (along with an Underworld flare, which never hurts). They fail, however, to add anything to a sound that's been explored already.

On the other hand, Title takes their sound to a rather uncommon level: synth-pop. While there still remain pockets of synth-pop in Europe, and throughout the States—there are very few in Canada (other than Vancouver's Tin Men). Title decided to change this, and while their sound is fancier than some synth-pop, they manage to tap into a sound used much less often than the recycled dance beat. The Mode cover just consolidates their influences, and closes the album nicely. The title track is also worth noting, as it contains one of those catchy synthlines that just makes you want to hum along. Definitely worth checking out if you're into dance, pop or retro.

In its first outing, Poptronik leaves much hope for future releases. Now, the challenge is to try and track down some of their films.



Plastilina Mosh
Aquamosh
(EMI Music)

Mexico's most recent darlings of so-called alternative music, Plastilina Mosh, mix Latin American lounge influences with Hip-Hop and Punk.



An obvious attempt at universality, their lyrics combine English, French, Japanese, and Spanish to make the album as international-sounding as possible. The result is banal choruses and titles like "Savage Sucker Boy." However, they manage to rescue themselves occasionally by reverting back to Spanish and by including a few beautifully lush arrangements. Such tactics save the album from falling neatly into the bin with the rest of today's Beck wannabes.

For the most part, *Aquamosh* reveals the influence of Beck and the Beastie Boys on contemporary music. Borrowing Beck's musical styling and replacing his academicism with a mild Latin sensuality, combined with the Beastie's rap/punk/ambient formula that they mastered three years ago. Plastilina Mosh submits an album that will satisfy the curious and make cool background music at parties.

- Giovanni Senisi

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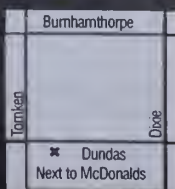
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Damon wears his best poker face for 'Rounders'

Matt Damon has proven himself as a Hollywood leading man, and a charismatic hero that audiences can root for. His razor sharp dialogue in the role of Will Hunting demonstrated his acting ability, and his reserved emotions and eventual breakdown in the role of Private James Ryan showed Damon knew how to step aside and let veterans Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks control the show.

FILM/REVIEW

BY RICHIE MEHTA

Now Damon appears in *Rounders*, a new film by indie film-noir king John Dahl, in which he plays a compulsive gambler turned law school student, who has an ability to play opponents in the mind game that is poker. After losing everything, he quits, only to be sucked back in by his old friend, Worm (Edward Norton).

Tense poker scenes, and Damon's

charming performance as the boy genius with something to prove, highlight the basic plot—which is heightened with noir-esque voice-overs. The film also gains from character actor John Turturro, who turns in a memorable performance as a career player; and John Malkovich, who adds zest as Teddy KGB, the bad dude.

However, the film fails to truly thrill on a psychological level. Whereas 1994's *Maverick* fit perfectly into the adventure genre, with poker thrills on the side, *Rounders* relies too heavily on the poker, and comes up flat, especially with its predictable outcome. It does manage to capture the alluring intensity and attraction of the game, but, as Dahl's previous film *The Last Seduction* showed, dark, stylish stories like these require unpredictability. One is left guessing throughout *Seduction*; whereas *Rounders* employs so much high-price talent that it must deliver the predictable high-price ending: a rule that is destined to destroy Hollywood films.



Gretchen Mol, a groomed Edward Norton, Damon, and Famke Janssen in *Rounders*.

The strange days of our lives

The opening scene in Kathryn Bigelow's *strange days* (1995) is the most interactive scene one will ever see. The scene involves three men robbing a restaurant. The twist is, you are one of those men, and you see and hear everything from his point of view, right up to his plunge from a ten story building.

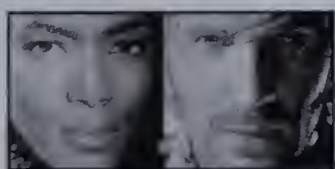
FILMS/TO/REMEMBER

BY RICHIE MEHTA

This is how the new "drug" of the millennia works; someone records their experiences via the cerebral cortex, and anyone can play back those memories on disc—like virtual reality, but, you can feel what the person is feeling. This is one of the gimmicks of the dark futuristic thriller by writer James Cameron (and for those looking for depth in a screenplay, it is much better than *Titanic*).

The film stars a pre-*English Patient* Ralph Fiennes, and Angela Bassett, and takes place on the eve of December 31, 1999, in Los Angeles. Tension is running high, people are predicting the Apocalypse, and somebody is running around committing murders. This may seem too complex, but Cameron and Bigelow manage to shuffle all of these elements together to create a story that engages on a humane and technological level. Film scholars will find several

stylistic devices engaging, such as the long continuous takes in the playback-perspective scenes, and others will find a provocative commentary on the status of mankind, and the paranoia everyone feels as the millennium arrives.



Bassett and Fiennes in *days*.

Fiennes plays Lenny Nero, a dealer of "used emotions," in the form of the playback discs, and Bassett plays his loyal, honest friend. Both performances are among the best they've given. They show passion, desperation, and Fiennes shows another side of his usual, clean-cut hero as a shallow, grungy loser, clinging on to the remains of a lost love. Many critics slammed the film, probably because it deals with so many issues at once and tries to be too many things, but the underlying themes deal with the pessimism of humanity, the peace that can be found in love, and the anger that may end up destroying everyone. It shows even though the world has become a form of hell, there is still a glimmer of hope left. Grace, watch this film. For anyone whose interested in the fate of humanity, *strange days* will have some meaning for you.

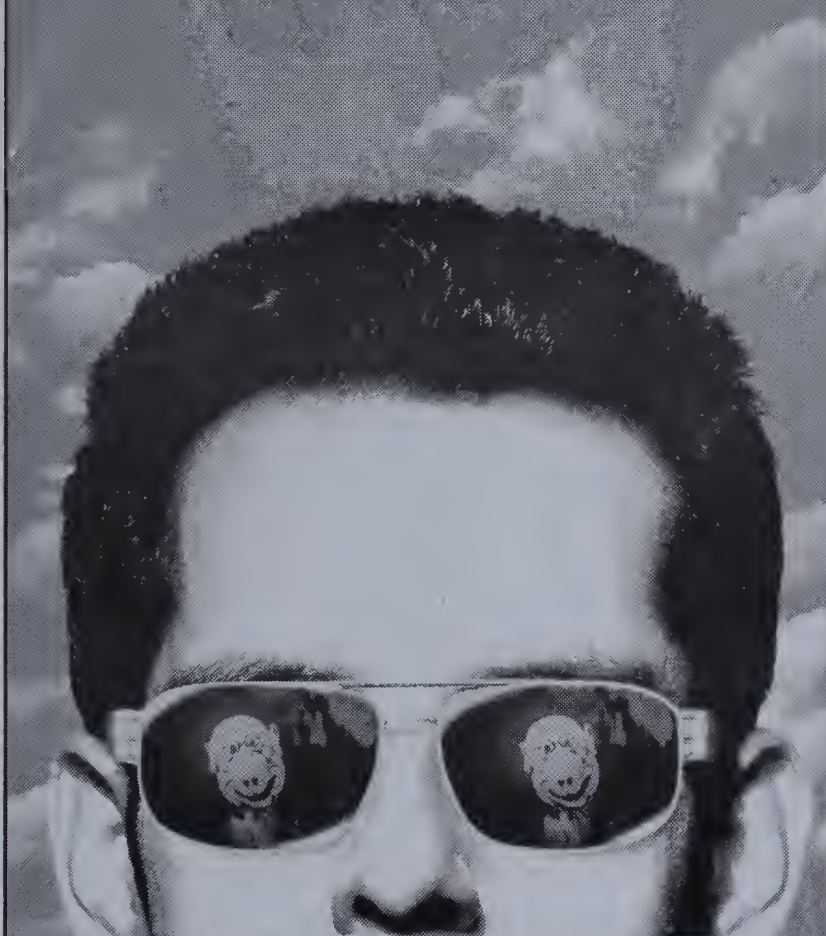
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Beckham not real heel

For those who watched the summer's World Cup of Soccer, many images are indelible. Heroes like Zinedine Zidane, with his two goals in the final, were forged in glory while others were vilified for their poor play and costly mistakes.

Immediately following the game, the loss was attributed to Beckham, but while his actions did change the game, he is not the real villain. Simeone's lack of sportsmanship makes him the real culprit. For those who watched the World Cup, this year was filled with diving and play-acting like never before.

Throughout the tournament everyone complained that the referees had been inconsistent about the calls that decided the games. While this was true in certain cases, the players who fell down whenever an opponent touched them placed the referees in precarious positions. Each game featured yet another player taking a dive to send an opponent off, which would change the face of the game. The referees made the mistake of assuming that the players would play with some sportsmanship and not flop around trying to get opponents booked.

The referees not only made calls that sent players off, thereby pre-determining games, but they called penalty shots after players took dives that also changed the course of the game. Many games involved players being tripped by phantom defenders while in the penalty area and being rewarded for this with a penalty shot. They would be able to turn a weak scoring opportunity into a penalty shot, which is a great trade-off. This sort of play was widespread throughout the tournament and it took away from the overall flow of the game, as there were constant interruptions.

While the sport made great gains in the public eye through worldwide exposure, the poor sportsmanship served as a bit of a black eye. International soccer had a great opportunity to showcase itself in North America but the lack of sportsmanship combined with the poor showing by the American team undermined that hope.

Sad as it is, this sort of poor sportsmanship has become commonplace in many sports, as athletes will do anything to win. This philosophy has led players to take drugs to enhance their performance (for example: Ben Johnson), try and hurt other players (Bryan Marchment) or use illegal equipment (most NHL goalies). They do this in the hope of landing a rich contract and getting lucrative endorsement deals.

In the end, the real heels of the World Cup were the players who tried to cheat to win. Players like Simeone, who saw an opportunity to win by disregarding sportsmanship ended up making themselves look foolish for falling all over the field. In a world tournament of this stature, players should remember that they are representing their country and should do so with honour and self-respect. Using deception in order to win puts a black cloud over honourable accomplishments. The cheaters are the real losers, as they sacrifice their dignity and integrity of the sport to try to win easily. Remember, winning isn't always the most important thing.

BETWEEN THE LINES

BY ZUHAIR FANCY

Undoubtedly, one of the goats for this World Cup was England's David Beckham for the red card he received against Argentina in the elimination round. Yet Beckham is not fully to blame for his actions. While he did strike another player with his cleats and obviously deserved some form of punishment, the red card he received in that game will probably haunt him for the rest of his professional career. He will forever be blamed for the loss England suffered that day. Yet it was noted by level-headed soccer enthusiasts that had England prevailed over Argentina, they would have had to beat the Netherlands and Brazil to win the Cup. Beckham's error may have cost England the game but they would have had greater challenges in front of them had they achieved victory. For those who did not see the incident, it occurred just as the second-half began, and it changed the tone of the game. The score was tied at two and England had been pressing when Argentine captain Diego Simeone fouled Beckham from behind, knocking him to the ground. In a foolish and irrational gesture, while still on his stomach Beckham kicked at Simeone, making contact with the Argentine player's leg. In a display of poor sportsmanship, Simeone fell to the ground crying, as though he had been severely injured. The referee gave Beckham a red card, leaving the English shorthanded for the rest of the game. The referee punished the entire English team for one player's mistake. England played a tight defensive game the rest of the way, but ultimately bowed out on penalty shots in a heart-breaking fashion.

This turn of events brought back painful memories of the Olympic Hockey game in Nagano last winter in which the Czech Republic eliminated Canada in a penalty shoot-out, when Brendan Shanahan missed the final shot and ended Canadian hopes for an Olympic Gold medal in hockey. Fortunately for the Detroit Red Wing star, the Canadian public was forgiving; the British soccer fans do not appear as sympathetic. Already, plans are in the works for Beckham to be heckled when his club team, Manchester United, is on the road. As a star player who plays for one of the more hated teams in the league, he is a big target for abuse, he's also in the spotlight because of his engagement to Victoria Adams, better known as Posh Spice.

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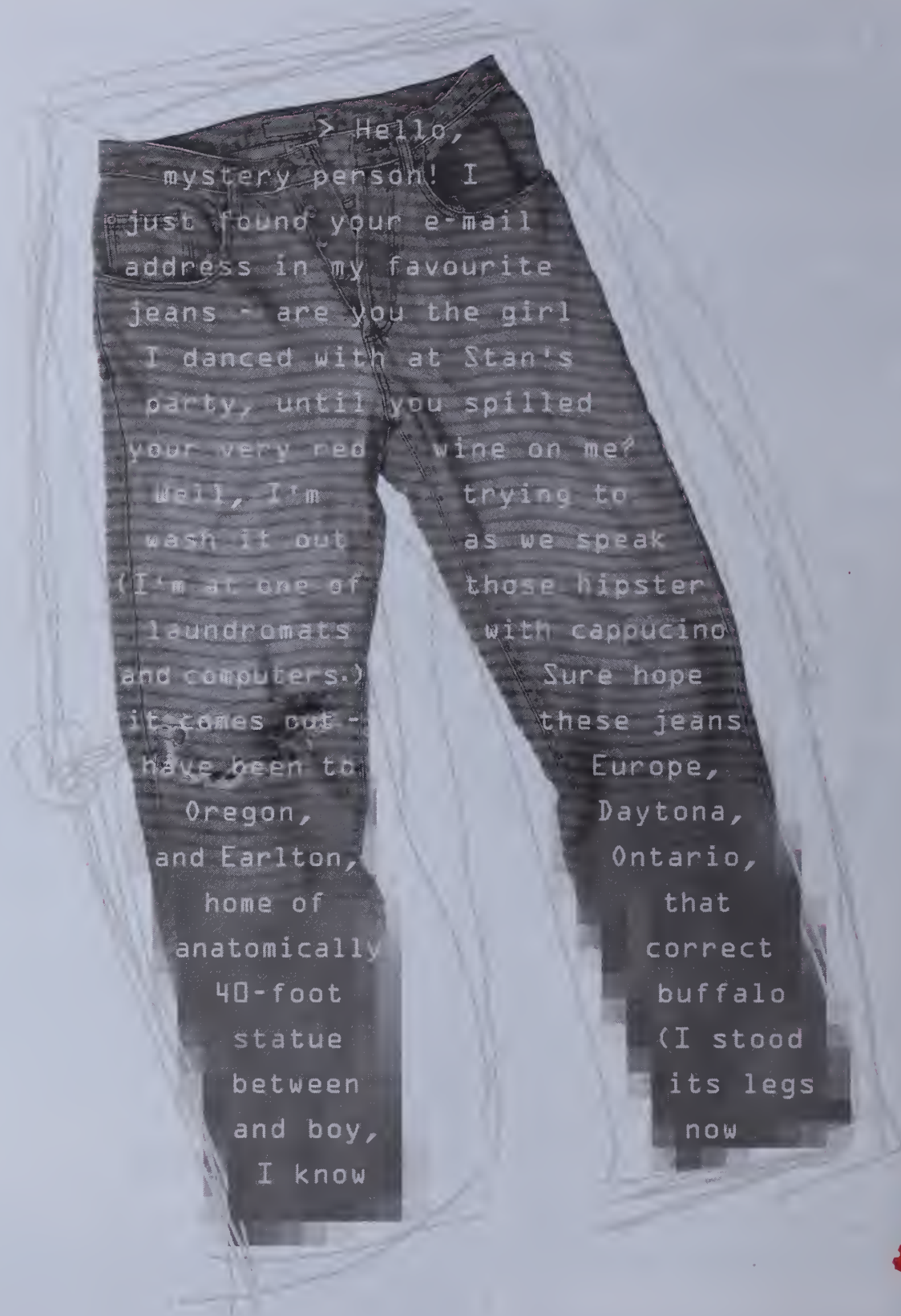
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